Leading Educators Discuss the Conditions and Outlook in Virginia

GREAT VALUE OF NORMALS

Their Important Relation to Solving the Problem of the Education of Children.

TEACHERS MUST BE TRAINED

Special Studies for the Express Purpose of Developing High Ideals in the Teacher.

By a Member of the Faculty of the State Female Normal School.

institution, and its organization was recognized in the clan or tribe, the respo individual family in the social customs and practices of the community life deout somewhat instinctively and tically, and included instruction nment in which he was placed. plete if their children grew to manhood thoroughly organized and greate

thus gradually came about that cer-It this grantally can always as the first tain schools undertook the work of preparing teacders for their manifold ducties. It was discovered that mere scholarship was no guarantee of an individual's ability to teach, but that the successful teacher is the one who is technically trained for his work, as in all other walks of life. The Normal School as a technical institution for the training of teachers thus gradually evolved until at the present time practically all civilized nations of the world maintain them at great expense, for the sole purpose of feeling assured that the youth of the land are taught in the best possible manner.

What Is Normal Training.

of other institutions of learn-

two or three or four years he is almost sure to catch the real professional spirit, and have a sincere desire to be a real teacher, a true teacher, one that inspires and uplifts. Not only so, but practically every student of a Normal School course every student of a Normal School comes to the institution with a desire to become a teacher, and thus his whole effort is bent in this direction. He gets probably as much inspiration from his fellow students as elsewhere, and the very gossin of the Normal School pertains to the teaching art, as the gossip of the medical student pertains to the clinic and the dissecting room.

The Method of Teaching.

The Method of Teaching.

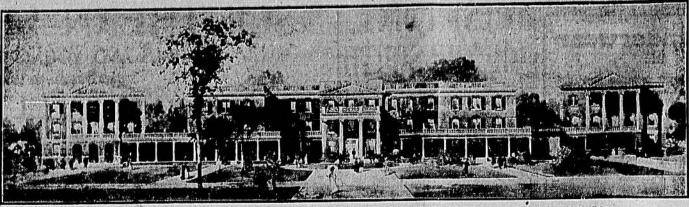
In a real Normal School no academic subject is ever thught simply as an academic subject, but all subjects are taught with reference to preparing the student to teach that particular branch. Every instructor in a Normal School should be an ideal teacher, and the matter is presented in such a way that each lesson is a model lesson. It is perfectly manifest that the student working under such conditions will understand what is the field of work for a teacher far better than one who merely gets information as a student.

But there are special studies taken in

ter is presented in such a way that each lesson is a model lesson. It is perfectly manifest that the student working undersuch want is the field of work for a teacher far better than one who merely gets information as a student.

But there are special studies taken in a Normal School for the express purpose of developing high ideals in the teacher that are not usually taken to any great extent in other institutions. Thorough the prople in every age. What education has been in the past, and how various systems have controlled a nation's life, and what has been the contribution to education of the various reformer from Socrates to Horace Mann. Such a course gives the student a cross section of the general scheme of education at the present ilme, after tracing it through all history. Courses in psychology, dealing particularly with the subject, genetically, tracing mental development, and is powerless in the mental development in the child, it is certainly necessary that he understand the laws of that development, and many kindred problems as the meaning of education, the aim of education, dealing with an problems as the meaning of education, the self activity, imitation and suggestion in mental development, and many kindred problems that every teacher who understands his business fully must ald in solving.

The of the most helpful subjects taken in the less of the most helpful subjects taken.



VIRGINIA STATE FEMALE NORMAL SCHOOL, FARMVILLE, VA.

The State Normal School at Farmville pleted, thereasing the boarding capacity of the school to at least four hundred, never so well prepared to fulfill its mission as now. During the past two years posing appearance, worthy of its mission and improvements were made. An en-

bushed to completion as rapidly as pos-posible. By the end of another session a new assembly hall, class rooms, and

teacher properly for the technique of his work is that of school management. The problems of how to organize and conduct

Means Development

of true living. Culture is only culture as it enables the individual to put into netual practice lofty motives and impulses and ideals.

It has always seemed strange that society and the State have always looked so lightly upon the teaching profession as to allow almost any one to engage in teaching their children. We exact the strictest sort of artining of our physician in treating this wonderful mechanism, our body, when it becomes diseased. We study the laws of hygiene and physical growth in the most scientific manner that these bodies of ours may grow and develop heautifully and harmoniously, which is right. When it comes to spiritual matters people will not take religious instruction from one who does not know religious truth, and is able to apply this truth in practical living. The minister who preaches but does not minister to true living by example has no power in the community. Knowledge here without the actual practice is utterly worthless. Faith without works is void.

Importance of Training.

FINE WORK DONE BY STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

of something like ten thousand persons. This number would not comprehend all of the adult population of the State, nor even all of those who ought to be actively and unitedly interested in improving conditions for public and private education in this old Commonwealth, but it would be the "Tenth Legion," and, considering the nature of the band, which one may see as in a vision, its capacity to do real work, its opportunities and experience, its fitness for mastering hard situations, its quiet but immense potentialities, its undervalued but everlasting possibilities, I know of but one historical prototype; namely, the immortal ten thousand who advanced under Cyrus and retreated under Xenophon, and did both with equal glory. Our membership now is not less than 2,500 and probably does not exceed 3,000. It would seem, therefore, that so far as numbers are concerned we have covered one-fourth of the distance.

Its numorical strength is by no means the full measurement of the association's influence. The work has been restricted to no section or part of the State, but the whole has been reached. The vice-presidents are according to congressional districts, and the figures show an almost enual rate of progress in the several districts.

We include also all kinds and classes

districts, and the figures show an almost equal rate of progress in the several districts.

We include also all kinds and classes of schools. The university and the colleges have Joined as faculties, the city associations and clubs as such, while many of the local organizations are known as county associations and some as district leagues.

The policies advocated by the association have been conservative, but singularly consistent and progressive. The value of teachers' reading circles has been insisted upon from the beginning, and the association has stood all along for the multiplication of high schools and for definite courses of study in the rural schools. In the cities, in the wealthier towns and communities, in short, wherever anything like a reasonable samount of money has been put in the hands of the school authorities, splendid schools have been established; the State Association has wished to see all of the cities, counties, and communities do likewise, believing that Virginia is abundantly able to educate her own children. It has been declared by some of our oldest and wisest leaders that increase out of ten from local appreciation of Piles of to from local appreciation of Piles of ten from local appreciation of Piles of the files of the state of local teachers and other school officials, or, in other words, that a good school will in a few years guarantee for itself a long term and a sufficient revenue. The genius of the State Association calls attention, therefore, to what has been accomplished in Virginia and not local teachers and other school officials or, in other words, that a good school will be provided the provided the provided the school authorities, splendid way in which the

paces, should save the Old Mother from the stings of the statistician and the inaccurate and irritating figures of ex-perts on illiteracy.

And, for the day, confin

by the Legislature.

On the questions of consolidation of schools and generally, as to school methods and courses of study, the association seems to have proceeded upon the idea that more discussion is needed where such wide differences of opinion exist.

So much for the numerical strength, the measures and ideals of the State Association. A word as to its men may not be inappropriate. The work of Messrs. Dudley R. Cowies and Willis A. Jenkins, its first and second presidents, will not be soon forgotten by those who labored with them. I am trying to get the roster of the pioneers, and, while I am unable to give all of the names that should be mentioned here, it is but just to speak of the faithful work of Miss C. S. Parrish and Miss Nannie Davis, of Lynchburg; Miss M. F. Stone, of Pulaski; Mr. J. H. Bonneville, of Hampton; Mr. C. H. Lambert, of Ashland; Jessrs. J. L. Kibler, W. H. Kelster, I. Ş. Wampler, and W. L. Korr, of the Valley; Mr. R. H. Sheppe, of Big Stone Gap, and Dr. J. A. C. Chandler, of Richmond.

The officers for the present year are: President R. C. Stoarnes, Salem; Sec-

dier, or Richmond.
The officers for the present year are:
President, R. C. Stoarnes, Salem; Secretary, A. H. Foreman, Norfolk; Treasurer, N. P. Painter, of Roanoke,
Vice-presidents by congressional dis-

be able and willing to express their thoughts. If one might be sure that in every county and city of the State there would be large gatherings of the teachers during the coming session, and that the same would be electric with short, carsame would be electric with short, earnest speeches, or talks, or papers from many of the rank and file, with no long-winded man or woman to molest or make them afraid, one might considently expect better instruction, better discipline, and better lines of effort in the school rooms all along the line. It is, at least, a fact of experience.

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